

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A biodegradable molded article comprising:

a biodegradable expanded molded article molded in a specified shape; and

a coating film attached to a surface of the biodegradable expanded molded article, the film being mainly made of a biodegradable plastic and having at least hydrophobicity,

the biodegradable expanded molded article being molded, through steam expansion, from a slurry or dough molding material mainly made of a starch and a derivative thereof and prepared by adding water to the starch or the derivative thereof,

the starch and the derivative thereof containing high-amylose starch or a derivative thereof.

2. (Original) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the starch and a derivative thereof contains not less than 50 weight % high-amylose starch or a derivative thereof.

3. (Original) A biodegradable molded article comprising:

a biodegradable expanded molded article molded in a specified shape; and

a coating film attached to a surface of the biodegradable expanded molded article, the film being mainly made of a biodegradable plastic and having at least hydrophobicity,

said biodegradable expanded molded article being molded, through steam expansion, from a slurry or dough molding material mainly made of a starch and a derivative thereof and prepared by adding water and polyvinyl alcohol to the starch or the derivative thereof.

4. (Original) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a polymerization degree of not less than 1500.

5. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3~~—or—4~~, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a saponification degree of not less than 75%.

6. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the coating film is mainly made of a modified polyester.

7. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein

the coating film is biaxially stretched.

8. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the molding material further contains a water-insoluble fiber.

9. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the expanded molded article accounts for not less than 60 weight % of total weight of the biodegradable molded article.

10. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the molding material contains water which accounts for 20 weight % to 70 weight %, assuming that the biodegradable molded article is 100 weight %.

11. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the coating film is directly and substantially adhered to the surface.

12. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein the biodegradable expanded molded article has a final water content between 3 weight % and 20 weight %.

13. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 4, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a

saponification degree of not less than 75%.

14. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the coating film is mainly made of a modified polyester.

15. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the coating film is biaxially stretched.

16. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the molding material further contains a water-insoluble fiber.

17. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the expanded molded article accounts for not less than 60 weight % of total weight of the biodegradable molded article.

18. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the molding material contains water which accounts for 20 weight % to 70 weight %, assuming that the biodegradable molded article is 100 weight %.

19. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the coating film is directly and substantially adhered to the surface.

20. (New) The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the biodegradable expanded molded article has a final water content between 3 weight

- % and 20 weight %.  
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